

REMARKS

The present application includes claims 17-39, 44, 46, and 47. Claims 17-39, 44, 46, and 47 were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 17 and 44 were amended. Claims 1-16, 40-43, 45, and 48 were cancelled in a previous amendment. Claims 18-39, 46, and 47 were previously presented.

Claims 17, 23-28, 31, 33-36 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sanchez et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,086,415).

Claims 17-20, 22-28, 30-37, 39, 44, 46, and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curry et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,053,764) in view of Arnett (U.S. Patent No. 5,238,426).

Claims 21 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curry in view of Arnett, and further in view of Rutkowski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,639,261).

Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curry in view of Arnett, and further in view of Gutierrez et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,585,540).

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 17, 23-28, 31, 33-36 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sanchez.

Sanchez relates to a high density modular patch panel. Sanchez describes a jack holder 22 having a plurality of openings 32 arranged in a single row (FIG. 3).

Claims 17 and 44 have been amended to recite a faceplate having a plurality of openings arranged in at least two rows and at least two columns. As described above, Sanchez describes a jack holder 22 having a plurality of openings 32 arranged in a single row. Sanchez does not teach a faceplate having a plurality of openings arranged in at least two rows and at least two columns, as

recited in amended claims 17 and 44. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 17 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sanchez has been overcome, and that claims 17 and 44 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 23-28, 31, and 33-36 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1. As described above, independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 23-28, 31, and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sanchez has been overcome, and that claims 23-28, 31, and 33-36 are also in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 17, 23-28, 31, 33-36 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sanchez has been overcome, and that claims 17, 23-28, 31, 33-36 and 44 are in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejections of claims 17-20, 22-28, 30-37, 39, 44, 46, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curry in view of Arnett.

Curry relates to a patch panel and interlocking module. Curry describes a front housing 14 having a plurality of apertures 16 arranged in a single row (FIG. 1).

Claims 17 and 44 have been amended to recite a faceplate having a plurality of openings arranged in at least two rows and at least two columns. As described above, Curry describes a front housing 14 having a plurality of apertures 16 arranged in a single row. Curry does not teach or suggest a plurality of openings arranged in at least two rows and at least two columns, as recited in claims 17 and 44.

Arnett relates to a universal patch panel for communications use in buildings. However, Arnett does not overcome the shortcomings of Curry. Specifically, Arnett does not teach or suggest a faceplate having a plurality of openings arranged in at least two rows and at least two columns, as recited in claims 17 and 44.

Moreover, a combination of Curry and Arnett similarly fails to teach or suggest elements of the present claims. None of Curry and Arnett teaches or suggests a faceplate having a plurality of openings arranged in at least two rows and at least two columns, as recited in claims 17 and 44.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 17 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curry in view of Arnett has been overcome, and that claims 17 and 44 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 18-20, 22-28, 30-37, 39, 46, and 47 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 17 or 44. As described above, independent claims 17 and 44 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 18-20, 22-28, 30-37, 39, 46, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curry in view of Arnett has been overcome, and that claims 18-20, 22-28, 30-37, 39, 46, and 47 are also in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 17-20, 22-28, 30-37, 39, 44, 46, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curry in view of Arnett has been overcome, and that claims 17-20, 22-28, 30-37, 39, 44, 46, and 47 are in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 21 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curry in view of Arnett, and further in view of Rutkowski.

Rutkowski relates to a modular cross-connect system. However, Rutkowski does not overcome the shortcomings of Curry and Arnett. Specifically, Rutkowski does not teach or suggest a faceplate having a plurality of openings arranged in at least two rows and at least two columns, as recited in claim 17.

Moreover, a combination of Curry, Arnett, and Rutkowski similarly fails to teach or suggest elements of the present claims. None of Curry, Arnett, and Rutkowski teaches or suggests a faceplate having a plurality of openings arranged in at least two rows and at least two columns, as recited in claim 17. Therefore, a combination of Curry, Arnett, and Rutkowski does not teach or suggest elements of the present claims.

Claims 21 and 38 depend from independent claim 17. As described above, independent claim 17 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 21 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curry in view of Arnett, and further in view of Rotkowski has been overcome, and that claims 21 and 38 are in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curry in view of Arnett, and further in view of Gutierrez.

Gutierrez relates to a shielded microelectronic connector assembly and method of manufacturing. However, Gutierrez does not overcome the shortcomings of Curry and Arnett. Specifically, Gutierrez does not teach or suggest a faceplate having a plurality of openings arranged in at least two rows and at least two columns, as recited in claim 17.

Moreover, a combination of Curry, Arnett, and Gutierrez similarly fails to teach or suggest elements of the present claims. None of Curry, Arnett, and Gutierrez teaches or suggests a faceplate

having a plurality of openings arranged in at least two rows and at least two columns, as recited in claim 17. Therefore, a combination of Curry, Arnett, and Gutierrez does not teach or suggest elements of the present claims.

Claim 29 depends from independent claim 17. As described above, independent claim 17 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curry in view of Arnett, and further in view of Rotkowski has been overcome, and that claim 29 is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17-39, 44, 46, and 47 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

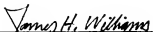
The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicants may be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Attorney for Applicants at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 16-0228.

Respectfully submitted.

Dated: August 29, 2007



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